especially a privilege and a duty in heroic times.

Those who desire to subscribe may send their checks to Charles Francis Adams, Esq., treasurer of Harvard College, 50 State Street, Boston.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

Professor A. A. Michelson, head of the department of physics, University of Chicago, has been commissioned as lieutenant-commander in the navy.

Dr. Richard C. Maclaurin, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has accepted the appointment of director of college training, in charge of the Students' Army Training Corps under the War Department's Committee on Education and Special Training aiming to mobilize the higher institutions of learning.

Professor Julius Stieglitz, chairman of the department of chemistry at the University of Chicago, has been appointed as special expert in the United States Public Health Service of the Treasury Department. This will not involve his work at the university. The government assigns him two assistants, who will be in the employ of the Public Health Service and will carry out their work in Kent Chemical Laboratory under Professor Stieglitz's direction.

Major Anton J. Carlson, chairman of the department of physiology at the University of Chicago, who is now in the Sanitary Corps of the National Army attached to the Food Division of the Surgeon General's Office, is at present on duty in England, making a study of food conditions in the rest camps of the United States Army.

M. K. Akers, professor of applied electricity, at the State College of Washington, has been granted leave of absence for the duration of the war. He is now conducting research work in the development department of the Western Electric Company of New York. Harry L. Cole, instructor in chemistry at the State College of Washington, has been recommended for leave of absence during the period of the war, and is now training in the aviation camp at Berkeley, California.

The Royal Society of Arts has awarded the Albert Medal for 1918 to Sir Richard Tetley Glazebrook, C.B., Sc.D., F.R.S., "for his services in the application of science to the industries of peace and war, by his work as director of the National Physical Laboratory since 1899, and as chairman of the Advisory Committee for Aeronautics." The society's Albert medal, founded in 1863 to commemorate the presidency of Prince Albert, has been awarded annually "for distinguished merit in promoting arts, manufactures and commerce."

Oxford University has conferred the degree of master of arts *honoris causa* on John Louis Emil Dreyer, Copenhagen, late director of the Armagh Observatory.

The Birmingham medal of the British Institution of Gas Engineers, has been presented to Mr. John West, of Southport. Mr. West, who is eighty years of age, has been awarded the medal in connection with his work for the gas industry and Ministry of Munitions.

The David Livingstone Centenary medal of the American Geographical Society has been awarded to Colonel Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon in recognition of his valuable work of exploration in South America.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., has been elected president of the Royal Statistical Society of Great Britain.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM NORTH RICE, for the past fifty years professor of geology at Wesleyan University, is retiring from active work.

DR. S. J. BARNETT has resigned his post as professor of physics at the Ohio State University in order to accept the position of physicist-in-charge of experimental work at the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He entered upon his new work at Washington, on July 15.

THE series of War Lectures given in July at the University of Chicago include the following: James Rowland Angell, head of the department of psychology, spoke on July 2, on "Psychology in the Service of the Army." On the same date J. Laurence Laughlin, professor emeritus of political economy, discussed "Economic War Lessons for the United States." On July 3 Professor Julius Stieglitz, chairman of the department of chemistry, discussed "Chemistry as a Factor in Modern Warfare." On July 5 Dean Rollin D. Salisbury, of the Ogden Graduate School of Science, presented "The Contributions of Geology to the War." On July 9 "Infectious Diseases and the War" was discussed by Edwin Oakes Jordan, chairman of the Department of hygiene and bacteriology.

THE faculty of the school of medicine of the University of Pittsburgh, have passed the following resolution in appreciation of Dr. R. E. Sheldon, who died on July 9:

Through the sudden death of Dr. Ralph Edward Sheldon, professor of anatomy, the school of medicine of the University of Pittsburgh has lost one of its efficient teachers, an indefatigable worker, and a man of resolution who has reaped abundant success. Dr. Sheldon's death has closed an active career, which was ascending to its acme in the mid-period of life. His work in the special field of neurology was gaining for him an eminent place with the leaders in this branch of research; his enthusiasm in building up his department was unbounded and his wide interest in the sphere of higher education was ever active. His colleagues deeply appreciated him in his work and as a loyal and trusted friend, and closely followed the growth of his successors. The medical faculty look forward to the publication of his book on neurology which will stand as the monument of his efforts.

Be it resolved that this appreciation of affection from his colleagues and associates be entered upon the minutes of this faculty meeting and the expression of their deep sorrow at his loss be extended to the members of his family.

DR. RICHARD RATHBUN, since 1897 assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and since 1899, in charge of the National Museum, died on July 16, aged sixty-six years.

PROFESSOR POZZI, a distinguished gynecologist and surgeon, on June 13, at the age of seventy-two years, was murdered in his consulting room by a lunatic patient, who thereupon committed suicide.

A CABLEGRAM was received on July 16 at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor B. Baillaud, director of the Paris Observatory, stating that Wolf's periodic comet was observed by Jonckheere, at Greenwich, in the following position:

July 9.508 G.M.T.
R.A. $20^h\ 35^m\ 13^s$
Dec. $+ 24°$

It was first reported by the Yerkes Observatory in California after an absence of seven years.

THE daily papers state that Professor Vincent read recently before the Paris Academy of Sciences a paper in which he described the preparation of a new serum which it is stated has proved effective even in desperate cases of gas gangrene.

A SPECIAL emergency act to give the government control over all platinum in the United States was recommended by members of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives on July 1, after hearing further evidence of the short supply of the metal. Chairman Kitchin told the committee he believed the measure should be enacted immediately instead of waiting for the enactment of the revenue bill, which may impose a heavy tax on all platinum users. Members of the committee agreed the situation was serious enough to warrant prompt action to provide a sufficient supply of the metal for war manufacture.

Sir Bernard Mallet, the Registrar-General of Great Britain, delivered a lecture recently at the Royal Institute of Public Health on "The effects of the war as shown in vital statistics." Dealing with the decline in the birth-rate due to the war, he said that in England and Wales the births registered in 1913 numbered 881,890. In 1915 they fell to 814,614. In 1916 there was a further fall to 780,520, the slightness of the fall from the previous year being due to the increase in marriages in 1915, when the number celebrated reached the "record" figure of 360,885. In 1917 the births registered fell to 668,346, a decline from the 1913 figure of 24 per cent. Up to the present there had been lost in England and Wales in potential lives, on the standard of 1913, 650,000. He thought that it would be long before the birth-rate reached the figure that obtained before the war. Serious as this loss is to the coming generations in Great Britain, he continued, there is reason to believe that it had suffered less in this direction than the other belligerent nations. In terms of percentages of loss on the pre-war population it may be assumed that Germany has lost in potential lives the equivalent of 4.5 per cent. of its total pre-war population, Austria 5 per cent., and Hungary 7 per cent. The statement may be hazarded that the present war, by the fall of births it has occasioned, cost the belligerent countries of Europe not less than 12½ millions of potential lives. While the war has filled the graves, it has emptied the cradles. At the present time, every day that the war continues means the loss of 7,000 potential lives to the United Kingdom, France, Italy and the Central Empires.

Technically trained men and women are needed for the examining corps of the Patent Office. Those are wanted who have a scientific education, particularly in higher mathematics, chemistry, physics and French or German, and who are not subject to the draft for military service. Engineering or teaching experience in addition to the above is valued. The entrance salary is $1,500. Examinations for the position of assistant examiner are held frequently by the Civil Service Commission at many points in the United States. One is announced for August 21 and 22, 1918. Details of the examination, places of holding the same, etc., may be had upon application to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or to the Patent Office. Should the necessity therefore arise temporary appointments of qualified persons may be made pending their taking the Civil Service examination. Application for such appointment should be made to the Patent Office.

Opportunities in government work for women include the following, announced by the United States Civil Service Commission: *Bacteriologist:* Vacancies in Public Health Service, at $1,800 a year. Applicants must have graduated from a college or university of recognized standing in a course including biology and bacteriology and have had at least two years postgraduate experience in practical bacteriologic laboratory methods. *Biochemist:* The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for biochemist for both men and women for duty in Washington or elsewhere, at salaries ranging from $1,800 to $3,000 a year. Certification to fill the higher-salaried positions will be made from those attaining the highest average percentages in the examinations. Competitors will not be required to report at any place but will be rated on education and experience and publications or thesis to be filled with application.

There are still many elements of uncertainty in the search for oil pools, but some of these are reduced to a minimum in regions where rock outcrops are conspicuous and the relation of the oil pools to the structure of the rocks is relatively simple. These are the conditions in the Big Horn Basin, Wyo., a report on which has recently been published by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, as Bulletin 656, "Anticlines in the southern part of the Big Horn Basin, Wyo." The report is one of a series on the existing and prospective oil fields of the state, several of which have already been published.

Though oil was known to exist in the Big Horn Basin as early as 1888 and sporadic attempts have from time to time since been made to discover it in large quantities, the production of oil in this region may be said to have begun in 1906, when wells were drilled in the Byron field. Wells were afterwards drilled in several other parts of the basin, and though small quantities of oil and gas have been discovered in fourteen fields, the region is well known largely because of the production since 1914 from the Grass Creek, Elk Basin, Greybull and Torchlight fields. From 1914 to 1916 the production of oil in Wyoming rose from 3,560,375 to 6,234,137 barrels, and a considerable part of this increase has been derived from the fields just named. The report describes fifty anticlines and domes, twenty-seven of which have been tested by drilling. Four of these contain very productive oil and gas fields, and seven contain fields that are less productive and less promising. The anticlines lie in a broad belt around the border of the Big Horn Basin, and the authors of the report conclude that those which are nearest the central trough of the basin offer the greatest prospect for successful drilling. In fact, none of the explored anticlines that are separated from the central trough by other anticlines have yet yielded more than traces of oil and gas. As nine anticlines adjacent to the central trough remain untested there is a good prospect that other productive fields may yet be discovered. The report was prepared by D. F. Hewett and C. T. Lupton.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

BY the will of Elmer P. Howe, of Marblehead, Mass., after private bequests amounting to between $35,000 and $40,000 are provided for, the residue of the estate is to be divided equally between Yale University and the Worcester Polytechnic Institute for general use. For the purposes of the probate bond the estate is estimated at $30,000 real and $400,000 personal property.

DR. CHARLES A. TUTTLE has presented to Yale University his home and offices, a large brick building on York Street, adjacent to Wrexham Hall.

ACCORDING to the Journal of the American Medical Association the number of students enrolled in the medical department of the University of Buenos Aires is over 5,000. In 1917, there were 4,078 enrolled, distributed as follows: medicine, 3,051; pharmacy, 317; doctor in pharmacy, 88; odontology, 428, and obstetrics, 194. Including the departments of law, engineering, philosophy and literature, agronomy and veterinary science, there are a total of 9,521 matriculated students. There are 984 students inscribed in the medical department of the other university in the country, the University of Cordoba.

DURING the absence of President Harry Pratt Judson, of the University of Chicago, as head of the American Commission for Relief in Persia, the dean of the faculties, Professor James R. Angell, head of the department of psychology, has been designated by the board of trustees as vice-president of the university.

FRANK L. DE BEUKELAER, professor of chemistry at Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, has been appointed to an instructorship in the department of chemistry at the University of Chicago.

DR. CYRUS H. FISKE, who has held the position of assistant professor of biological chemistry at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, will join the Harvard medical staff with the same title.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE SUPPLY OF ORGANIC REAGENTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In order to provide for the supply of organic reagents for research and industrial purposes the Eastman Kodak Company has determined to commence their preparation in its research laboratory.

This decision was arrived at partly as a result of the letters of Dr. Roger Adams and Professor Gortner[1] which drew our attention to the need for an adequate supply of these materials produced by a firm of standing.

[1] SCIENCE, March 8, 1918, p. 226 and June 14, 1918, p. 590.